

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS FOR THE FIRST GARP GLOBAL
EXPERIMENT (FGGE)

1. THE GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM (GARP) IS AN
INTERNATIONAL EFFORT UNDER COGNIZANCE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS' WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) AND
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS. GARP IN-
VOLVES A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS, BOTH REGIONAL AND GLO-
BAL TO WHICH THE UK HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS.
FGGE, AN EXPERIMENT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GLOBAL OBSERVA-
TIONAL DATA COVERAGE NECESSARY FOR THE STUDY OF LARGE-
SCALE GLOBAL CIRCULATION AND WEATHER FORECASTING FOR
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PERIODS LONGER THAN A FEW DAYS, IS NOW IN PLANNING STAGES.
THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COOR-
DINATING UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPERIMENT.
OTHER U.S. PARTICIPANTS ARE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, AND THE NATIONAL AERONAU-
TICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

2. THE GREATEST DEFICIENCY IN THE EQUATORIAL TROPICS FROM A SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT IS THE LACK OF UPPER-AIR WIND DATA. TO ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM, SEVERAL SPECIAL

OBSERVING SYSTEMS ARE PLANNED. SUCH SYSTEMS INCLUDE THE TROPICAL WIND OBSERVING SHIPS PROGRAM, SATELLITES (BOTH POLAR AND GEOSTATIONARY), THE TROPICAL CONSTANT LEVEL BALLOON SYSTEM, A SERIES OF DRIFTING BUOYS AND AN AIRCRAFT DROPWINDSONDE SYSTEM. IT IS THE LATTER, THE AIRCRAFT DROPWINDSONDE SYSTEM, FOR WHICH HOST COUNTRY COOPERATION IS REQUIRED AS WIND FIELD MEASUREMENTS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE PLANNED ON FLIGHTS FROM DIEGO GARCIA BY LONG-RANGE NOAA RESEARCH AIRCRAFT OUTFITTED WITH DROPWINDSONDE EQUIPMENT.

3. REQUEST YOU SEEK APPROVAL FROM UK FOR OPERATION OF NOAA AIRCRAFT FROM DIEGO GARCIA DURING FGGE OPERATIONS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WMO AT THE REQUEST OF THE WMO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL FOR FGGE, OF WHICH UK IS A MEMBER, ASKED THAT GOVERNMENTS WAIVE FEES FOR LANDING, PARKING, APPLICABLE CUSTOMS, ETC., DURING THE PERIOD OF THE EXPERIMENT. WE UNDERSTAND SUCH FEES HAVE BEEN WAIVED BY THE UK AND THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WMO HAS SO INFORMED THE WMO SECRETARY GENERAL.

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4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (1) APPROXIMATE OPERATING PERIODS ARE SCHEDULED JANUARY 15-FEBRUARY 13, 1979, AND MAY 10-JUNE 8, 1979. (2) SOME ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL NEED TO BE IN PLACE ABOUT FIVE DAYS BEFORE AND AFTER OPERATING PERIODS. (3) THREE OR FOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT OPERATING LOCATIONS APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 1978 FOR SITE SURVEYS. LOCAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED; HOWEVER, FACILITIES AND SERVICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. NAVY INSTALLATION PRESENTLY THERE. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO SITE SURVEY. (4) AIRCRAFT WILL BE WP-3D AND WC-130 OPERATED BY THE DOC (NOAA). (5) OPERATIONAL CONCEPT - TWO ROUND ROBIN FLIGHTS DAILY FROM DIEGO GARCIA; ONE WILL COVER THE AREA TO THE EAST AND THE OTHER TO THE WEST. FLIGHTS WILL AVERAGE FROM 9 TO 11 HOURS. THREE TO FOUR AIRCRAFT WILL BE ON STATION DAILY. (6) PERSONNEL - AN AVERAGE OF 41 WILL BE ON STATION, 38 OF WHOM WILL BE AIRCREW AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. NUMBER OF VISITING PERSONNEL IS UNPREDICTABLE. (7) OPERATING EQUIPMENT - AIRCRAFT WILL NOT HAVE OPERATING PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO THAT NEEDED FOR NAVIGATION,

FLIGHT LEVEL METEOROLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS, AND TO OBTAIN AND RECORD DROPWINDSONDES DATA. (8) OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF HOST GOVERNMENTS MAY BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ON FLIGHTS ON SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS. DATA

GATHERED ON FLIGHTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS FROM THE FGGE DATA ARCHIVES. CHRISTOPHER

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